

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2853**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsugio OKAMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2853

Application No.: 10/667,497

Examiner: M. SHAH

Filed: September 23, 2003

Docket No.: 117273

For: BELT CONVEYING MECHANISM FOR INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS AND
INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS INCLUDING IT

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As a supplement to the Request for Reconsideration filed on March 28, 2008, and in consideration of the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. This Request for Reconsideration supplements Applicants' March 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration, the arguments from which are not repeated here. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 9-13 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 2001-113690 to Mitsuhiro. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 9 call for the ink retaining portion to be ranging from the bottom surface of the recessed portion to a rear surface of the conveyor belt.

As discussed with Examiner Shah during a telephone interview, Mitsuhiro's Drawings 1 and 2 disclose absorbers 61A-64A, which were previously asserted in the January 16, 2008 Final Office Action as reading on the ink retaining portion of claims 1 and 9. However, as discussed with Examiner Shah, Applicants' ink retaining portion (non-water-repellent region 24x) ranges from the bottom surface of the recessed portion 24 to a rear surface 80a of the conveyor belt 8 as explained in Fig. 3 and paragraph [0025] of Applicants' specification, for example. As agreed upon by Examiner Shah, the absorbers 61A-64A, illustrated in Drawing 1 of Mitsuhiro, are located under the conveyor belt and, thus, are not placed between the bottom surface of the recessed portion (alleged holes 21a-1 to 21a-5) and the rear surface of the conveyor belt, as called for in independent claims 1 and 9.

Independent claims 11 and 18 call for a recessed portion formed in the surface of the conveyor belt such that the ink moves towards at least one width end portion of the conveyor belt.

As discussed with Examiner Shah, Mitsuhiro's Drawings 1-4 disclose holes 21a-1 to 21a-5, which are interpreted by the Examiner as allegedly reading on the claimed recessed portion. However, as discussed with Examiner Shah, Applicants' specification discloses a recessed portion 124 that is formed in the surface of the conveyor belt 108b such that the ink moves towards at least one width end portion of the conveyor belt, as explained in paragraph [0056] and Fig. 11, for example. As agreed upon by Examiner Shah, Mitsuhiro's holes 21a-1 to 21a-5, simply allow ink to fall directly through the conveyor belt to the absorbers 61A-64A. Therefore, Mitsuhiro's holes 21a-1 to 21a-5 (alleged recessed portion) are not formed to move the ink towards one width end portion of the conveyor belt.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, in supplement to the remarks made in Applicants' March 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in

condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 27,075

Rodney H. Rothwell, Jr.
Registration No. 60,728

JAO:RHR

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 9, 2008

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